



Jonathan Richman is playing tonight at Donkey Coffee.

## Influential indie rocker to play Donkey tonight; Chestnutt on the bill

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Although the show may be sold out, some Athenians may want to check out Donkey Coffee tonight, when Jonathan Richman and Vic Chesnutt will play at 8 p.m.

Richman is a punk influence on the American music scene. As part of the Modern Lovers in the 1970s, he helped pave the way for modern punk and garage rock. After the band broke up and Richman started his solo career, two of his bandmates went on to play in the Talking Heads and the Cars, respectively.

Richman is most recognizable to the college crowd as the singing minstrel who appears periodically in the 1998 movie "There's Something About Mary." His drummer, Tommy Larkins, also appears in the movie. Richman also has appeared on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" numerous times.

The Donkey appearance is one stop in a 21-venue tour that Richman is using to promote his album, "Not So Much to Be Loved as to Love."

The album is the first album that Richman has produced himself. The record touches on his heroes, artists Vincent van Gogh and

Salvador Dali, and includes a taste of French, Italian and Spanish.

*Performing Songwriter* characterized the album as "moving in its commitment to simple pleasures and basic human decency."

The offbeat guitar man will be joined by Vic Chesnutt, a singer and guitarist from Athens, Ga. When Chesnutt was 18, a car accident rendered him wheelchair-bound.

As a local performer in Athens, Ga., Chesnutt was discovered by R.E.M. icon Michael Stipe.

Chesnutt has been likened to a cartoon character, because of the strange treatment he gives to his voice in performances. The musician, who has recorded more than 10 albums, is a confessed shoplifter and often sings about clinical depression in a comedic fashion, according to Wikipedia.org.

Apart from his folk, punk and country-inspired music, Chesnutt's work is flavored with commentary on his atheistic outlook on life and the influences of poetry. He also recorded the aptly titled 1993 release "Drunk," while he was, you guessed it, inebriated.

It would probably make sense to call ahead if you're interested in seeing the show, since it may be sold out.